

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 11748 021532Z

42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 DHA-02 SSO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 OC-05 CCO-00 COME-00 /067 W

----- 094847

P 021105Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6536

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 11748

USIA FOR IAA DAWSON

NAIROBI FOR VOA CHANCELLOR AND NELSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: ARREST OF USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 10 AM, THURS, OCT 2, THREE PLAINCLOTHES SECURITY OFFICERS ENTERED THE USIS BUILDING AND ARRESTED VOA CONTRACT EMPLOYEE KAHSU FESSAHAIE.
2. THE MEN ENTERED THE BUILDING FALSE PRETENSE, TELLING THE USIS BUILDING GUARDS THEY WANTED TO VISIT THE OFFICES OF THE JERUSALEM MEMORIAL BLDG, LOCATED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.
3. INSTEAD, THEY WENT DIRECTLY TO THE FOURTH FLOOR, WHERE THE INFORMATION SECTION IS LOCATED, AND ASKED A SECRETARY WHERE KAHSU'S OFFICE WAS. SHE REPLIED THAT IT WAS ON THE FIFTH FLOOR WHERE THE VOA STUDIO IS ALSO LOCATED.
4. THE PAO WAS IN THE INFORMATION SECTION AT THIS TIME AND WHEN HE HEARD THE SECURITY MEN ASK FOR KAHSU, HE ASKED WHAT THEY WANTED WITH HIM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 11748 021532Z

5. THEY SAID THEY WANTED TO TALK TO HIM AND PROCEEDED TO THE FIFTH

FLOOR, ALONG WITH THE PAO, AND TOLD KAHSU HE WAS UNDER ARREST.

6. THE PAO THEN ASKED THE SECURITY MEN IF THEY WOULD COME TO HIS OFFICE TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

7. THEY SAID THEY WOULD, BUT INSTEAD, TWO OF THE MEN TOOK KAHSU OUT OF THE BUILDING TO A WAITING CAR AND THE LIEUTENANT IN CHARGE ACCOMPANIED THE PAO TO HIS OFFICE.

8. THE PAO PROTESTED THE ARREST TO THE SECURITY OFFICER TELLING HIM DIPLOMATIC PREMISES HAD BEEN VIOLATED.

9. THE SECURITY OFFICER SAID AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THE USIS BUILDING WAS A "PUBLIC BUILDING." HE THEN EXCHANGED IDENTIFICATION WITH THE PAO AND LEFT THE BUILDING.

10. IN THE MEANTIME, THE IO AND THE AIO WERE TOLD BY THE SECRETARY THAT KAHSU HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY AND BOTH PROCEEDED TO THE STREET TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

11. WHEN THEY REACHED THE GROUND FLOOR THEY ASKED A SHOESHINE BOY WHO DOES OCCASIONAL CASUAL LABOR FOR USIS WHERE KAHSU WAS AND THE BOY POINTED TO A VOLKSWAGON PARKED NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING.

12. AS THE YOUNG MAN POINTED TO THE CAR, HE WAS SEIZED BY THE LIEUTENANT, KICKED AND PUNCHED AND DRAGGED TO THE CAR.

13. THE IO AND AIO APPROACHED THE CAR AND ASKED THE MEN WHY THEY WERE TAKING KAHSU AWAY AND THEY SAID IT WAS "AN IMPORTANT SECURITY MATTER."

14. THE IO REITERATED WHAT THE PAO HAD SAID PREVIOUSLY ABOUT VIOLATING DIPLOMATIC PREMISES AND THE SECURITY MAN, IN A HOSTILE AND SARCASTIC MANNER, REPEATED THAT "IT WAS A SECURITY MATTER." NO FURTHER EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN.

15. KAHSU WAS THEN TAKEN AWAY AND THE SHOESHINE BOY WAS SET FREE.

16. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT, THE PAO NOTIFIED THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 11748 021532Z

AMBASSADOR WHO SUBSEQUENTLY LODGED A STRONG ORAL PROTEST TO THE ACTION FONMIN AND IS REPORTING THAT BY SEPTTEL ALONG WITH RECOMMENDATION FOR FOLLOW-UP DIPLOMATIC NOTE. THIS IS THIRD UNAUTHORIZED INVASION OF USIS PREMISES IN LESS THAN A YEAR.
(NOTE: ALTHOUGH NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR KAHSU'S ARREST, WE ASSUME IT WAS IN RELATION TO THE BOMBING OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUILDING THAT TOOK PLACE EARLY THIS MORNING -- 6 AM LOCAL TIME. KAHSU IS AN ERITREAN AND WAS PICKED UP TWICE

BEFORE BY THE SECURITY POLICE -- ONCE IN DECEMBER WHEN HE WAS
RELEASED AFTER QUESTIONING, AND ONCE IN FEBRUARY WHEN HE WAS
HELD FOR 15 DAYS (REF ADDIS ABABA 1581 AND 2197). ALSO, ACCORD-
ING TO FSL, THE SECURITY MEN ALSO ASKED THE WHEREABOUTS OF TWO
OTHER ERITREAN USIS EMPLOYEES, BOTH OF WHOM ARE ABSENT FROM
THE OFFICE THIS WEEK ON ANNUAL LEAVE.)
LEWIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba2
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS11748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750342-0077
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751090/aaaadbye.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba2
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>; WITHDRAWN <21 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <23 JUN 2005 by blochd0>; APPROVED <23 JUN 2005 by powellba2>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE
TAGS: CASC, PINT, VOA, (KAHSU FESSAHAIE)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006